rejection and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections in light of the amended claims and the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 112

Examiner has rejected Claims 22-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 22 was indefinite, because the Examiner stated: "The phrase 'a plurality of levels, such as a policy level, a claim level, a participant level and a line level' is rendered indefinite by the phrase 'such as'." Applicants have amended Claim 22 to replace the phrase "such as" with the phrase "wherein the plurality of levels includes." Applicants have amended Claim 26 to replace the phrase "information such as" with "details of loss information, facts of loss information, events information and liability information."

With regard to Claim 34, the Examiner stated the claim was indefinite, because "this claim contains the same defect as Claim 22." Applicants have replaced the phrase "such as" with the phrase "wherein the plurality of levels includes." Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw his rejection to Claims 22-40.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected Claims 22-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lau (U.S. Patent No. 5, 987, 247). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection in light of the new claims. Applicants have amended Claims 22, 26 and 34.

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Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims are not described or suggested by Lau.

Amended Claim 22 recites, "a claim folder that decomposes a claim related to the event into a plurality of levels, wherein the plurality of levels includes a policy level, a claim level, a participant level and a line level, wherein the plurality of levels reflects a policy, the claim, claimants and an insured person in a structured format." Since Claim 34 incorporates the same features of Claim 22; a recitation of Claim 34 is not included. In addition, the arguments that apply to Claim 22 also apply to Claim 34.

Amended Claim 26 recites, "wherein the claim level further comprises details information, facts of loss information, events information and liability information." Lau discloses a computer program product for building a framework of objects corresponding to a design for an object oriented application. Such a computer program product may include a computer readable storage medium having computer readable code means embodied in the medium. The computer readable code means may include computer instruction means for generating an initial framework corresponding to the design. The initial framework corresponds to at least one of file objects, module objects, interface objects, methods and attributes. (Column 6, lines 36-46). Lau also discloses a business related object oriented program to first perform a business analysis and then to develop the business architecture and design.

Lau, however, does not anticipate, disclose or suggest the utilization of a claim folder that decomposes a claim related to the event into a plurality of levels, wherein the plurality level include a policy level, a claim level, a participant level and a line level, wherein the plurality of levels reflect a policy, the claim, claimants and an insured person

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in a structured format. In fact, Lau, teaches away from utilizing a claim folder to decompose a claim related to the event into a plurality of levels, wherein the plurality of levels include a policy level, a claim level, a participant level and a line level, wherein the plurality of levels reflects a policy, the claim, claimants and an insured person in a structured format. Lau discloses a framework building system that assists a developer in adding a file within an interface node. For example, Lau allows the developer to add a people file to a customer interface node, but Lau does not include a claim folder, file or interface node that decomposes a claim related to an event into a plurality of levels, where the plurality of levels include a policy level, a claim level, a participant level and a line level, where the plurality of level reflects a policy, the claim, claimants and the insured person in a structured format. (Column 11, lines 4-13).
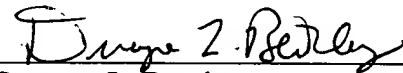
In addition, the Examiner stated: "The usage of the phrase 'such as' to define level types [sic] means that the level types are optional, and may not even exist. The Lau reference is maintained as a basis of rejection since the use of optional level types allow for the possibility that none of the level types exist in the invention." Next, the Examiner goes on to say: "The level types are interpreted as not being part of the invention, by reason that each level type is optional rather than mandatory." Applicants replaced the phrase "such as" in the independent Claims 22 and 34 with the phrase "wherein the plurality of levels includes." The phrase "wherein the plurality of levels includes a policy level, a claim level, a participant level and a line level" shows that the levels in the plurality of levels are mandatory to the invention, but they are not described or suggested in Lau.

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Therefore, the amended Claims 22 and 34 are not anticipated by Lau. Clams 23-33 and 35-40 depend from independent Claims 22 and 34. Therefore, Claims 23-33 and 35-40 also are not anticipated by Lau as claims dependent upon allowable base claims.

SUMMARY

Pending Claims 22-40 are patentable. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner grant early allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicants via telephone if such communication would expedite allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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In the Claims:

Please rewrite Claims 22, 26 and 34-38 as follows:

22 . (Amended) A system for assigning tasks, the system comprising:

a client component configured for providing information concerning an individual in an event and for allowing a user to link the individual to the event; and

a server component in communication with the client component, the server component including a task engine application program that interacts with an event processor, wherein the event processor interacts with a claim folder that decomposes a claim related to the event into a plurality of levels [such as], wherein the plurality of levels includes a policy level, a claim level, a participant level and a line level, wherein the plurality of levels reflects a policy, the claim, claimants and an insured person in a structured format.

26. (Amended) The system of Claim 22, wherein the claim level further comprises [information such as] details information, facts of loss information, events information and liability information.

35. (Amended) An apparatus for assigning tasks, the apparatus comprising:

a server component including a task engine application program that interacts with an event processor, wherein the event processor interacts with a claim folder that decomposes a claim related to the event into a plurality of levels [such as], wherein the

plurality of levels includes a policy level, a claim level, a participant level and a line level, wherein the plurality of levels reflects a policy, the claim, claimants and an insured person in a structured format.

35. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 34, wherein the participant level further comprises [recording involvement in a claim] a recording of claim involvement.

36. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 34, wherein the participant level further comprises a recording of role specific information.

37. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 34, wherein the participant level further comprises information related to making contact with clients.

38. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 34, wherein the participant level further comprises [providing] forms and correspondence.